18. Jag Mohan Lal Gupta
19. Avdhesh Kumar Singh
20. Madan Mohan Prasad Singh
21. P.S. Garg
22. Pavan Kumar Potdar
23. Rajhans Refractories Pvt. Ltd.
24. Shiv Prasad Poddar
25. M/s. Ceramic Company Ltd.
26. M/s. Minerals and Minerals Co. Ltd.
27. Smt. Jayawali Kumari Bhagat
28. Arvind Kumar Singh
29. Gandharv Uranv
30. Smt. Leeladevi Pandey
31. Smt. Beena Rani Agrawal
32. Jitendra Bhai Patel
33. Madan Mohan Prasad Singh
34. Vishnu Ch. Chowdhari

Illegal mining activity

470. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the illegal activity and chances of accidents in mining are considerably more with intensified mining in our growing economy; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the safety and working conditions of the mining population in the backdrop of the fact that fifty four miners have lost their lives in the bowels of earth at Dhanbad recently?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, Mining Plan duly approved, is mandatory for obtaining a mining lease. The Mining Plan provides for undertaking safe, systematic and scientific mining operation. As per Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 all mining operation has to be carried out in accordance with mining plans and in case of any failure in this regard, the Rules provide that an authorized officer may order suspension of all or any of the mining operation and permit only such operations as may be necessary to restore the conditions in the mines.

(b) As per information available, safety measures such as structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organization (ISO), safety audit of mines by experts for assessment of threats and implementation of the recommendations, measures for avoidance of accidents due to inundation, measures for reduction of roof and side-fall accidents in below ground mines, measures for reduction of accidents in open cast mines are being taken by Coal India Limited to provide due safety to the workers.

Revival of Kolar Gold Mines

471. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of Bharat Gold Mines Limited have been demanding revival of the Kolar Gold Mines:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Global Gold Mines Industrial Cooperative Society formed by a majority of workers have submitted any proposals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Karnataka High Court in its order dated 26.9.2003 had recommended that Government should take appropriate steps to enable such of the employees, who have accepted the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), to form an Employees Co-operative by providing them appropriate land and such machinery and